authorities and their field formations have been alerted and are vigilant to prevent any smuggling of cardamom from Nepal to India.

[Translation]

Indo-US Trade Relation

6512. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen Indo-American trade relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) USA is India's single largest trading partner and constant endeavour is being made for further expanding, strengthening and deepening economic & commercial ties with USA through several bilateral mechanisms such as Indo-US Commercial Alliance, Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission, Indo-US Joint Business Council, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

[English]

MMTC Favouritism to certain Exporters

6513. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain officials of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have been recently found involved in showing favouritism to certain exporters causing substantial loss to the Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) There is no commercial decision of the MMTC resulting in substantial loss to the Government Exchequer. However, some complaints against their commercial decisions have been received which are presently with the investigating agencies. A separate inquiry at the Government level has been conducted in the case of M/s. Pestal Waves, UK in which MMTC has suffered a marginal loss. Disciplinary proceedings have been ordered against the concerned officials.

Textiles Mills

6514. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of NTC, STC and private sector textile mills in the country as on date;

(b) the number of such mills sick as well as closed down during each of the last three years till date, alongwith the number of textile workers rendered jobless due to closure, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated and provided for rehabilitation of textile workers during each of the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) As on 31.12.96, management-wise break-up of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills in the country is as under :

Management	No. of Mills
Public (NTC/STC)	188
Cooperative	146
Private	1251

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Since the inception of Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, as on 31.1.97, Rs. 84.61 crores have been provided to 42461 workers of 28 mills. State-wise details are as follows :

(Rs./Crores)

State	Amount
Gujarat	66.15
Maharashtra	3.90
Tamil Nadu	2.64
Delhi	11.92
Total	84.61